

Filed for intro on 02/08/2001
SENATE BILL 1254 By
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HOUSE BILL 1172
By McDaniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 71, relative to creating a policy committee to oversee, and make recommendations regarding the administration of, the TennCare program or any successor to the TennCare program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 71-5-120

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly to create a policy committee composed of stakeholders that have a vital interest in the TennCare program. The general assembly finds that this policy committee is needed to provide independent advice to the legislative and executive branches on the direction, purpose and goal of TennCare. The committee shall, among other things, assist in the oversight of TennCare, formulate and make recommendations on ways to improve TennCare, and work closely with the legislative and executive branches to assess the successes or failures of TennCare.

(b) For purposes of this section, "TennCare" means the TennCare program or any successor to TennCare that provides healthcare services under the federal Medicaid statutes, Title XIX of the Social Security Act..

(c) The policy committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members. At its initial meeting, the policy committee shall elect a chairperson, a vice chairperson and a secretary.

(d)

(1) The governor shall appoint nine (9) of the fifteen (15) members to the policy committee. For these nine (9) appointments, the governor shall appoint one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA); one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Hospital Alliance of Tennessee (HAT); one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA); one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee Pediatric Association (TPA); one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Insurers of Tennessee; one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee Pharmacists Association; one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted jointly by the Tennessee Association of Business, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Tennessee Business Roundtable; and two (2) persons from a list of six (6) submitted by the Tennessee Justice Center.

(2) The speaker of the house shall appoint three (3) persons to the policy committee, including one (1) person from a list of three (3) Recommended by the Tennessee Nurses Association; and one person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council. The speaker of the senate shall

appoint three (3) members to the policy committee, including one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by any managed care organizations or administrative service organizations contracting with the state to provide healthcare services under TennCare and one (1) person from a list of three (3) submitted by the Tennessee Association of Health Underwriters.

(e) The members of the policy committee shall serve a term of two (2) years from the date of their appointment. Upon expiration of a member's term or if a vacancy occurs on the Committee, a successor shall be appointed in the manner set forth in subsection (d).

(f) The policy committee shall meet at least quarterly every calendar year. The committee shall prepare a written report of its evaluation and recommendations for the general assembly, addressed to the Speakers of both houses, to be submitted by no later than March 1 of each calendar year.

(g) The TennCare bureau, or its successor, shall ensure adequate staff support for the Committee to accomplish its goals. The bureau shall identify one staff person who is responsible for coordinating the committee's agenda and activities.

(h) The members of the policy committee shall receive the same per diem allowance, as calculated by appropriate state statute and regulation, provided for members of the general assembly. The members of the committee may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(i) The committee shall coordinate its meetings and activities with the commissioner of the department charged with the responsibility for management of TennCare. The committee shall provide to the commissioner, or his or her designee, professional advice regarding immediate and long-range plans for TennCare with the

view of reaching the overall objective and goal of providing high quality comprehensive medical and health services to eligible individuals in the state. The chair of the committee, or his or her designee, may testify before any appropriate committee of the general assembly regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4 -29-224, is amended by adding the following to subsection (a) to be numbered as follows:

(34) Policy Committee created by Section 71-5-120.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.